

Local Leaders Denounce Violence

Grief, Shock Expressed

By LARRY LIPMAN
Staff Writer

As national figures across the land spoke of their shock and grief over the shooting yesterday of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, local figures joined in denunciation of political violence.

Irvin Brant, an honorary Colonel in the Wallace for President campaign and Frederick County chairman who was present throughout the rally in the Frederick armory Thursday night said, "We're all still rather dazed. Our staff, which is made up of volunteers from both parties is very depressed, and even more so for the sake of the nation. Now we seem to just be back-sliding into a morass of lawlessness like South America where they set-

tle issues with bullets rather than with ballots.

"We are in the depths of despair, all of our prayers are with the Governor and it is our sincere and fervent hope that he will recover and go on to win the nomination and in November. But right now, after we have worked so hard, I feel like we have had all our hopes blown up in our faces."

The Frederick campaign com-

mittee plans to send a representative with a basket of flowers to Holy Cross Hospital tomorrow.

Supporters and opponents of the Governor joined Brant in their feelings. State Senator Edward Thomas said, "The outrageous shooting of Gov. Wallace is tragic to say the least. Our sympathy and prayers go out to the Governor, his wife and family. It is a terrible feeling; and all

so senseless. Violence is no answer when there is a difference of opinion. This is a sad and shocking bit of news. . . horrifying, and disturbing.

U. S. Senator J. Glenn Beall Jr., said, "I am shocked and distressed to hear that Gov. Wallace has been shot and I hope and pray for his safe recovery. It is indeed tragic that in the greatest free country in the world,

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this kind of violence could occur. It is a cruel form of intolerance that denies a man the right to express his views while participating in a free and open election."

Seaven G. Gordon of the Frederick NAACP said that, "It is always tragic and sad when anyone gets shot but my immediate reaction was that I was glad it did not happen in Frederick County and that no blacks were involved in the shooting."

Dr. Bill Rodgers, delegate candidate on the McGovern slate from Frederick said, "It is a sad commentary on the state of affairs that men of varying points of view are not safe to express those points of view in a presidential campaign. The Frederick McGovern volunteers deeply abhor the violence that has stricken Gov. Wallace and we extend our shared concern to the Wallace family."

Delegate Joseph R. Raymond, chairman of the Maryland McGovern campaign committee, stated further, "Out of respect for Gov. Wallace and in accord with Senator McGovern's wishes, the Maryland McGovern for President campaign will cease all active campaigning as of this moment. We have already instituted action to cancel all television and radio advertisements. We have ceased telephone canvassing, door to door canvassing and all leafletting operations. The affect of this action on the McGovern candidacy is irrelevant when compared to the violent action of which Gov. Wallace was the victim and all of us in Maryland express our deepest sympathies to his wife and family and pray for his speedy recovery."

Nationally, supporters and opponents of the Governor denounced the shooting in Laurel.

Two of his opponents cancelled some of their campaign appearances. Many officials recalled the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, and lamented for the state of the nation.

Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota, the liberal who defeated Wallace last week in the Nebraska Democratic presidential primary, said in Kalamazoo, Mich., "I'm totally shocked by this savage act. If we've gotten to the point in this country where a public figure can't speak out on the issues of the day and seek the presidency without being shot, then I tremble for the future of our nation."

He added, "We can only hope and pray for the speedy recovery of Gov. Wallace and we can only say a prayer for our country."

He said he was suspending until further notice all campaigning for the presidential nomination.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, who last week defeated Wallace in the West Virginia Democratic presidential primary, rushed to the hospital where Wallace, his main opponent in Maryland, was being treated. Humphrey said he planned to go on late Monday with a planned television broadcast from Baltimore beamed to Michigan and Maryland.

"All I can say is, it's a sad

business," Humphrey told newsmen. "It's terrible that these things happen. It's getting so you don't know what's going to happen in our country anymore in politics."

President Nixon personally called Mrs. Wallace at her husband's bedside and offered his hope and prayers for the candidate's recovery.

Deploring the "senseless and tragic incident," Nixon said the nation has suffered "more than enough already from the intrusion of violence into its political processes. We must all stand together to eliminate its vicious threat to our public life."

Sheila Braxson, a member of the Wallace staff, said she and three other campaign workers were at the candidate's Maryland headquarters in downtown Baltimore when they heard the news. "We all went in shock," she said an hour later. "Even now it's so hard to believe."

The Oklahoma coordinator for Wallace's campaign, Joe Phillips, said in Oklahoma City "Mister, if they want a fight they've got one ... If they kill Wallace, I'll spend the rest of my life running them down. I'm not afraid of them."